



H14/B

 DESIGN UTILITY PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

3/13/03

Applicants: David R. Payne, Gerald A. Stangl, Norman E. Stevens, Jr., and Michael F. Gard
Serial No.: 09/481,351
Filed: January 12, 2000
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY DRILLING AND BACKREAMING A HORIZONTAL BORE UNDERGROUND

Att'y Dkt. No.: 082380-00339
Group Art Unit: 3672
Examiner: R. Addie

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2003

GROUP 3600

BOX RCE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)

Please amend the subject application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

- 1-11. Cancelled.
12-20. Withdrawn.
21. Cancelled.
22. Withdrawn.
23. Cancelled.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for using a horizontal drilling machine having a plurality of automated functions, the machine comprising a drill string to which an underground tool is attached, the method comprising:

selecting a path along which the underground tool is to be used; and
axially advancing the drill string so as to move the underground tool along at least a portion of the selected path, while automatically operating at least one of the plurality of automated functions of the drilling machine; and